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ance of the old custom.

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## The Washington Anion.

"LIBERTY, THE UNION, AND THE CONSTITUTION."

WASHINGTON CITY, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1858. VOL. XIV. NO. 202.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE

On the 30th September, 1858, the quantity of surveyed lands ready to be brought into market was 61,951,049 acres; and there were then subject to sale at private cutry, at all the land offices, over 80,000,000 acres.
Under the various acts of Congress of 1847, 1850, 1852, and 1855, there have been issued 516,768 military bounty land warrants, requiring 55,731,890 acres of the public domain to satisfy them. Of these, 416,632 hall been located, to the 3eth September last, on 44,238,030 acres of land, leaving outstanding 100,136 warrants, calling for 11,493,860 acres of land.

The report of the Commissioner of the General Land Office exhibits the progress now being made in the several surveying districts, in the preparation of other and additional lands for sale; and it may be confidently expected that during the next calendar year the receipts from the sales of public lands, and the quantities sold and located, will be greatly increased. It is estimated that, without some detrimental change in our system, the income from this source will reach at least five millions of dellars.

By the act of Congress of March 2, 1849, and September 28, 1850, those swamp and overflowed lands in the several States in the Union, made thereby unfit for cultivation, which remained unsold, were granted to the States, respectively, to enable said States to reclaim all the swamp and overflowed lands within their limits.

The aggregate quantity of land selected and reported to the 30th of September last, as inaring to the States under these grants, is 55,129,492.13 acres; of which there have been approved and certified to said States, under the act of 1849, 7,379,994.23 acres; making an aggregate of 40,923,181.61 acres.

Patents have been issued under the act of 1850 for 28,716,834 11 acres; and if to this quantity we add the 7,379,994.23 acres; sunduer the act of 1849, which have the same effect as a patent, we shall have an aggregate of 40,092,341, acres; for which accoming the same effect as a patent, we shall have an aggregate of 40,0

is allowed to do so by paying into the common treasury a moderate consideration.

Large grants have been made by Congress, from time to time, to several of the States, of portions of the public lands lying within their respective limits, to be applied to public uses. The principle on which this has been justified is, that, as a landed proprietor, the United States receives full remuneration for the grants, in the enhanced value and more ready sale of the residue of the public lands, resulting from the execution of the respective trusts by the several States.

With but few exceptions, grants have never been made to individuals, except as a remuneration for meritorious services, or for the public benefit.

In our earlier legislation provision was made for passing the title to individuals for limited quantities of land, embracing their improvements, when their only claim of title was possession or settlement at or prior to certain dates. This policy, which gree out of the peculiar condition of French, Spanish, and British settlements, was but temporary, applicable to certain circumstances, and regarded as a measure of justice, and for quieting titles, rather than as a donation of lands.

In Florida, however, and in the Territories of Oregon, Washington, and New Mexico, not only was provision made for the allowance of the claims of settlers, who were then upon the public lands, without the payment of a consideration, but donation grants were offered to persons who should emigrate and settle within specified periods of time. Such donations, though inuing to individuals, were made as a means of public defence, and were believed to be well calculated to promote the military strength of distant settlements exposed to the hostile attacks and predatory visits of Indian tribes; but, as a measure of public policy, it has proved fallacious, and ought not to be renewed. These proffered donations have always been coupled with the condition of actual settlement and occupancy for a period of not less than four years; and the ri the act of 1849, which have the same effect as a patent, we shall have an aggr gate of 36,096,828.34 acres, for which a complete title has passed to the States.

These munificent grants, if wisely applied by the respective States, will enable them to rectain and open to settlement and cultivation the most fertile lands lying in the valley of the Mississippi, which, had they been retained by the United States, and left in their natural condition, would have retarded the growth of the country for an indefinite time, being unavailable for production and a fruitful cause of disease and death.

During the Thirty-fourth Congress several acts were passed making grants of public lands to the States of Iowa, Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Wisconsin, Michigan, Mississippi, and Minnesota, to aid in the construction of certain ratiroads within these States, respectively.

These grants were made in 1856, principally; and, about the time of the passage of the various laws, appeals were made to this department to close the local land of fices, and withdraw from market the public lands which,

grants made by Congress to States, so far as accepted, have been transferred by them to railroad companies. Desirous of allowing the companies every reasonable facility in availing themselves of the full benefit of the bounty of Congress, yet believing the continued withdrawal of the lands from market for any great period of time would operate injuriously upon other interests in those States, notice was given that a reasonable time would be allowed the companies to locate the routes definitely, and, in the event of their failure to do so, the suspension of the lands would be removed.

The length of the railroads provided for, under the legislation of the 34th Congress, in the several States mentioned, so far as the grants therefor have been accepted, is, as ascertained partly by estimate, 4,642 miles, and the quantity of land which will pass to the companies, 11,789,687 acres.

Of the lands which had been withdrawn from market, more than 18,590,000 acres have been restored since

claim is frequently incurred.

Wherever the pre-emption laws are available as a means of securing homes, the settlers will generally prefer to pay for their lands, and complete their titles at once, rather than wait for years, and then obtain their patents without the payment of any consideration. This is made evident by the fact that Congress has been constrained, from a sense of justice to those who have sought to avail themselves of the benefit of the several donation arts to mas laws for their relief, substituting

or the lands which had been windrawn from market, more than 18,599,000 acres have been restored since March 3, 1857, and it is expected that additional quantities will be restored early in the year 1859.

It is now satisfactorily ascertained that mines of the precions metals are to be found in the Territories of Washington, Oregon, New Mexico, and Kansas, and the time has arrived for the government of the United States to adopt some definite policy as to its mineral lands.

As an apt illustration of these views, T will refer to the practical working of the donation system in the State of Florida. The grant of land under the act for the armed occupation of Florida, approved August 4, 1842, was limited to two hundred thousand acres. The cager-ness of settlers to avail themselves of the benefits of this grant is shown by the issuance of one thousand three hundred and twenty-one permits for one hundred and sixty acres each, which amounted in the aggregate to two hundred and eleven thousand three hundred and sixty acres to adopt some definite policy us to its mineral lands.
Under the act of March 3, 1853, providing for the survey of the public lands in California, the surveyor general is prohibited from laying off, by subdivisional lines,

only one hundred and sixteen claims have been finally approved and patented, amounting to eighteen thousand five hundred and sixty acres.

On the 1st of July, 1848, another act was passed for the relief of those to whom permits had been granted, dispensing with continued residence on the specific tract. This act required the employment of an agent for the adjustment of this class of cases, and it appears that two hundred and eighty-three claims under it were approved and extented amounting to ferty-five thousand two hun. mineral lands be forever withheld from market, and kept open for all persons who may desire to work them and gather their rich products, or shall they, like agricultural lands, be surveyed and sold, and thus pass into the ownership of individuals? This question is interesting and of great moment; and I submit whether it would not be a wise and sound policy at this time to pass a general law reserving all auriferous, silver, and cinnabar mines—the precious metals—from sale, for the use and ounting to forty-five thousand two hun-acres. There still remain fifty-reven thousand to forty-five noise and worth the control of the control nd one hundred and twenty acres—and few, if any, lands containing copper, iron, lead, and con thousand one hundred and twenty acres—and lew, it any, of these will ever be carried into patent—whilst there are eight hundred and sixty-five claims which have been absolutely forfeited and cancelled, amounting to one hundred and thirty-eight thousand four hundred acres. From the foregoing statement it will be perceived that only about one-twelfth of the whole area proposed to be granted has been secured finally to claimants under the acts of 1842 habitants on an equality with those of the other Territo-

habitants on an equality with those of the other Territorics.

The organic act provides that the constitution and laws
of the United States, not locally inapplicable, shall be in
full force in said Territory. It is an unsettled question
whether this general provision, unsupported by any other
act of legislation secures to the settlers upon the public lands
in Utah the rights and benefits of the several pre-emption
laws. In that Territory we have already more than two millions of acres returned as surveyed and ready for market.
Occupants are upon these lands, and want to obtain titles
to their homes; and I submit whether it would not be an
act of justice to the people of Utah to establish in that
Territory a land office, and at the same time in express
terms extend the pre-emption laws, so as to embrace all
the inhabitants residing within its limits.

By the treaty of 1838, with the several tribes of New
York Indians, a tract of land lying in the southern part
of Kansas, and containing, by estimate, 1.824 000 acre, and 1844, (and a small portion of this was paid for;) that not one-fourth has been finally secured under the re-lieving act of 1848, and that more than two-thirds has been wholly forfeited.

I have no hesitancy, therefore, in expressing the opinion that a system of donations of this character, while it is not called for by the bona fide settler, is unwise, unjust, unequal, and fraught with mischief. It has embarrassed communities and retarded rather than accelerated settle-Under our system of public sales and pre-emption rights, settlements have been made on a secure and per-manent basis. The tide of emigration has rolled west-ward from the Atlantic coast, driving the Indian before it, and leaving in its rear flourishing States and prospe-rous communities, till it has now reached the heart of the continent; while from the shores of the Pacific, for

the inhabitants realing within its limits.

The state and prosport our communities, still it has now reached the heart of the feet continent; while from the shores of the Tadife, for overal years past, the enterprising pioners has been on overally the continent; while from the shores of the Tadife, for overal years past, the enterprising pioners has been on overall the provide and the profite and which the industrious settler will soon occupy and impore.

The system yielding these results has been the work of sufficient of the provide and provide and the provide and provide and the p

than three hundred and twenty acres of land." It is idle
to make these requirements and not enforce them; and,
therefore, the action of the Land Office has been to require proof of a compliance with the conditions of the
law before delivering the patents to the respective claimants. Purchasers neglect or fail to make the proof in
very many cases, hence suspensions become humerous,
and progress with luminess is prevented to the injury of
the citizen and the government. On the 3d of March,
1857. Congress interposed, and confirmed all the entries
made at graduated prices prior to that date, with a few
exceptions, to the great relief of the claimants and the
Land Office. Since then other similar entries have been
allowed and in regular order carried into patents, which
have been forwarded to the local officers for delivery, upon
satisfactory proof being adduced of a compliance with the
terms of the law.

It is believed that the graduation law will continue to
prove a fruitful source of frand and annoyance unless

It is believed that the graduation has an observed a fruitful source of fraud and annoyance unless some change is made in its terms. Congress should require proof of settlement and cultivation prior to the admission of the entry, or should release the purchaser from

For full information in respect to our Indian relations, I refer you to the report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and the accompanying reports of the different saperintendents and agents.

During the past year there has been much excitement among the wild tribes in the interier of the continent. The withdrawal of the troops from the military posts on the frontier, and their march through the Indian country to the Territory of Utah; the passage of the many supply trains of great magnitude, with their sumerous attendants, over the long route to the same destination; and the discovery of new gold mines in the Territories of New Mexico, Kansas, and Washington, and in the British possessions adjacent to our northern beandaries west of the Rocky mountains, have set in motion a large class of adventurers, who have traversed exensive tracts of country heretofore untrod save by Indian tribes. The opening of three wagon roads, and the establishment of the overland mail routes across the estatinent, have presented new inducements and facilities for travelling over relations with those nomadic tribes, that subsist almost exclusively upon the spoils of the chase. Although acts of hostility have resulted in some localities, it is a gratifying fact that, with triling exceptions, the tribes with which we have existing freaty stipulations have kept their faith, and have enjoyed a season of peace and comparative plenty.

Department to withdraw the troops stationed among the tribes on the frontier, our agents expressed serious ap-prehensions of outbreaks; but those fears have for the prehensions of outbreaks; but those fears have for the most part proved groundless. In those cases in which the ill-feeling of some, and the dishonesty of others, have led to open hostility, our gallant army, by a timely chas-tisement, has taught the delinquents a lesson which will not soon be forgotten. Conquest has thus paved the way for the introduction of our policy of peace, on which rests the only hope of the friend of the red man that there is any good in store for him and his pos-terity.

that there is any positive terity.

With the exception of the marauding bands that wander about the boundary between the United States and Mexico, towards whom we should pursue an energetic and decisive policy, the great mass of the Indians are now in a condition and temper to inspire the hope that increased a condition and temper to inspire the hope that increased

They are becoming too well acquainted with our power to be willing to measure their strength with us on the battle field. A wholesome fear of, and respect for, our government have been inspired, and they will not, as tribes, wantonly incur our displeasure. The sword is effectually opening the way for the ploughshare, and little now remains to be done to secure perpetual amity with the several tribes, and give fair scope to their growth in civilization, except to have a full and explicit understanding with them, and to prevent, if possible, their being misled by lawless and dishonest white men.

In all our dealings with the Indians, in our treaties, laws, and policy, the end sought to be attained has been

minerals, subject to the ordinary laws of settlement and sale for their development. The extent of these defies estimate, and gives assurance to our people in the future of unbounded wealth.

Peace and quiet have been restored to Utah, and some the attempt to civilize the Indian is altogether a civilize the Indian is altogether a

that the attempt to civilize the Indian is altogether a failure.

In reviewing the past, it is easy to point out errors which have been committed, but difficult to designate a general policy, which, in all respects, would have been better, and the introduction of a new system at any time would not be without its drawbacks and difficulties.

A due regard to the interests of our own people has compelled the government to remove the Indian tribes originally inhabiting the middle, southern, and western States, to habitations further west. In some instances one removal has followed another, change has succeeded change, and this unsettled state of affairs has been detrimental to the progress of the tribes in civilization, and autagonistic to the efforts made to convert the Indian from the ways of his forefathers to the faith and habits of our own people.

from the ways of his forefathers to the faith and habits of our own people.

When new reservations have been assigned to tribes, too often the boundaries allowed have been disproportionately large, and their situation has thus invited them to continue the hunter life. Their extensive domain has been held in common, and therefore separate individual property, so essential to individual exertion and general industry, has been comparatively unknown among them. The heavy annual largesses that have been given to some tribes, when divided among their people at stated periods, amount to a stipend which, without furnishing an adequate support, is yet large enough to destroy their self-reliance, repress such industry as physical want might otherwise compel, and create a taste for profligacy, which strengthens their natural aversion to constant labor or employment.

TWO CENTS.

still left behind who have made ku wn their willingness to join their friends in their new homes.

There is nothing which has so often disturbed and destroyed our amicable relations with the more remote tribes, as the failure on our part to comply with promises and agreements made by officers and agents, whom the Indians have regarded as duly authorized to speak for our government. To this cause we must, for the most part, ascribe our recent difficulties with the Indians in Washington Territory. Treaties had been negotiated with them some two or three years ago, by which they agreed to retire upon small reservations in concideration of a promise on our part to erect buildings, establish shops them some two or three years ago, by which they agree to retire upon small reservations in consideration of a promise on our part to erect buildings, establish shops and schools, and make annual presents of blankets, clothing, and useful implements.

These treaties not having been ratified, the Indian Office has been compelled to disappoint the expectations of the Indians, who very naturally became dissatisfied. The freeness treasures committed by the whites who, not

frequent trespasses committed by the whites, who, not anticipating the delay in the ratification of the treaties, in many instances settled upon the land which by the treaties was ceded to the United States, aggravated the discontent of the Indians, until it manifested itself in acts

of open hostility.

Peace has been again obtained by conquest, but the exact terms upon which it has been made are not at this time known to the department.

The proper management of those Indians, whose title to the lands they occupy has never been recognised by the United States, is a problem of most difficult solution. I do not refer to the scattered remnants of Indian tribes still remaining in some of the older States of the Union, who are not brought under the supervision of the Comstill remaining in some of the older States of the Union, who are not brought under the supervision of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, but to the Indians in the States of California and Texas. The policy adopted by Congress in regard to these Indians has been to gather them, as far as practicable, npon reservations, with the expectation that, under the guidance and protection of the Indian agents, they would support themselves by their labor, and improve in morals and in the arts of civilized life. During the last summer steps were taken to obtain correct and reliable information of the working of this system.

or this system.

A partial report from Texas gives the gratifying intelligence of the good conduct of our agents, and the confort and progress of the Indians on the reservations. The information in regard to the working of the sys-tem in California is discouraging. The product of the several farms is altogether inadequate to the support of the Indians, and the expense of the system, as heretofore

necessarily large number of white persons employed, and it would seem that, without a radical reform in this and

success commensurate with the cost.

Directions have been given to dismiss the laborers and employees, who have been retained heretofore at a very heavy expense, and to employ Indian labor alone in cultivating and improving the farms, and in herding the stock. Proper allotments of land inside the reservations are to be assigned to each family as their own private property, and each individual is to be fully secured in the possession and enjoyment of the fruits of his own labor; industry and virtue are to be encouraged by suitable rewards, and distinguished from idleness and vice. The Indians are, moreover, to be informed that unless they produce their necessary supplies, they can no longer exproduce their necessary supplies, they can no longer ex-pect that food will be furnished them at the expense of With a view to carry out the policy

made in my last annual report, that a district court should be established in the country occupied by the Choctaws, Chickasaws, Cherokees, and Creeks, and that

Choctaws, Chickusaws, Cherokees, and Creeks, and that the intercourse laws should be revised and codified.

With the authority from Congress so to commute the annuities of Indian tribes that they may be expended with their consent and approbation for the common good; to divide existing tribal reservations among the individuals of the tribes, respectively, with such restrictions upon the power of alienation as will remove all temptation to speculation; to assign lands as homes to those Indians who have no fixed abode; and to prescribe the boundaries within which the migratory bands will be required to remain, I should hope for the best results from the efforts of this department to amellorate the condition of the Indians under its supervision. PENSIONS.

The current business of the Pension Office in all its branches has been brought up to date, and the large cler-ical force which was required for the execution of the bounty-land act of 1855 can be dispensed with at an early

During the year ending 30th of September last, 13,815 bounty-land warrants were issued, requiring 2,034,420 acres of land to satisfy them. This, added to the quantity shown by my report of last year, makes the whole amount of public lands granted for military services up to September 30, 1858, 62,730,362 acres. Under the acts of 1847 and 1855 there are about 74,000 bounty-land claims pending in the office, originally suspended on account of informality, irregularity, or defective proof. Many of these cases are called up from time to time by the parties interested for re-examination, requiring a large amount of labor and patient investigation in the disposition of them.

The whole number of army pensioners under the various acts of Congress is 19,723, requiring for their payment the annual sum of \$902,700 29.

ment the annual sum of \$902,700 29.

The whole number of navy pensioners is 892, and the aggregate amount of their annual payments is \$130,-501 10.

have wholly ceased, yet the department has no authority, under existing laws, to withhold the pension of an invalid once granted. The examinations are generally made by physicians unknown to the office, exparte, and most frequently long after the occurrences which originate the disability; yet, being undisputed, their certificates are received as good and sufficient testimony.

With a view of showing the impossibility of arriving in advance at any reasonable conception of the expenditures which will be required by a ponsion law, I will refer you to the history of the passage of two enactments, one of 1832, and the other of 1853, occurring more than twenty years apart.

for the relief of certain surviving officers and soldiers of the revolution "was passed. While that bill was under con-sideration, a committee of the House of Representatives went into an elaborate calculation in order to ascertain the number of persons then living who were embraced by its provisions, and the annual amount of money it would require. The conclusion was that the number of soldiers who would claim and be entitled to its benefits was 10,057, and that the annual expenditure would be \$907,608. On this calculation the bill was passed. The number of claims filed under the law during the first year was about 25,000. The whole number filed under it exceeds 38,600. The whole number admitted was 33,-

The increase caused by the act of June 7, 1832, was therefore \$3,815,524 26, more than four times as much as the committee estimated the bill would require.

committee estimated the bill would require.

It was further estimated by the committee that, at the end of seven years, fifty-five years after the war of the revolution, there would be none surviving to receive its benefits. Now, if the whole number, 10,657, which it was supposed would receive pensions under this law, had lived out the seven years, it would have required \$6,353, 226 to have met its entire requirements, according to the calculation of the committee. But this, of course, was not anticipated, inasmuch as they expected that the whole number of beneficiaries would have passed away within the seven years. It is fair, then, to presume that one-half of this amount, \$3,176,613, was all that was expected to be drawn from the treasury under its provisions. Twenty-six years have clapsed since the passage of that law, and about two hundred soldiers are yet on the rolls, and the gross amount expended under the act is now over \$18,000,000.

ing pensions to the vidows of revolutionary soldiers mar-ried subsequent to 1800, the estimate of the office was that \$24,000 would be sufficient for the first year. That amount, however, was found wholly inadequate, and the additional sum of \$200,000 was asked for and appropria-ted in the deficiency bill of the succeeding session for that

Fifty-three years after the war of the revolution 5,000 widows were living, whose marriages took place prior to 1783. Nearly 100 of them are yet alive. In 1838, fifty-five years after the close of the war, 11,870 widows were living who were married between 1783 and 1794. In 1848, sixty-five years after the war, 6,442 of the 11,870

In my last annual report you was informed that a prac In my last annual report you was informed that a practice which had obtained in the Pension Office of paying to the representatives of deceased revolutionary soldiers and their widows the pensions which they would have received had the proof been satisfactorily established during their lifetime, had been overruled by me as unauthorized by law. During the last fiscal year this decision has seven to the treesure \$118,000.

thorized by law. During the last fiscal year, this decision has saved to the treasury \$118,000.

While I have the greatest confidence in the watchfulness and integrity of the officers who have heretofore had the direct management of the Pension Bureau, the development of the frauds which have been palmed off upon that office is astounding. During the last year fraudulent bounty-land claims amounting in the aggregate to about 175,000 acres have been detected and exposed. Previous investigations had brought to light a fraudulent issue of about 225,000 acres. Four of the perpetrators of these about 225,000 acres. Four of the perpetrators of these frauds have been convicted and sentenced during the last year; one, against whom the evidence was conclusive. bect that food will be furnished them at the expense of the United States. With a view to carry out the policy here indicated, the estimates for the Indian service in California for the next fiscal year have been reduced to the sum of fifty thousand dollars.

In southern California there are still numerous bands of Indians that have no permanent locations. Where they are found in desirable places they are often intruded upon and driven away by white men; and feeling no confidence that they can retain a place of permanent abode, they wander about ready for any mischlevous enterprise. If this department had authority to assign homes to such, in the possession of which they might be protected, there is hope that they could eventually be made useful members of a community in which they are now dangerous vagrants.

The Pimas and Maricopas, of Arizona, are agriculturists, and have fixed abodes. Before they are interfered with by emigration, reservations of proper extent should be assigned to them; and so soon as a definite understanding can be had with the Apaches, Camanches, Klowas, and other roving tribes of the interior, the same policy appears to be most proper to adopt in regard to them. These tribes will soon have to be localized; and to enforce quietude and keep them within the limits of their own possessions, the utmost watchfulness and firmness made in my last annual report, that a district court should be established in the country occupied by the

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

The report of the Commissioner of Public Buildings presents a view of the operations of this branch of the service during the last year, and of the expenditures made under the supervision of that officer.

The west wing of the building occupied by the Department of the Interior, and the improvements around it, have been completed in a handsome and acceptable manner. The construction of the north front is progressing satisfactorily, and when finished, the entire structure will reflect much credit, not only upon the author of the general design, but also upon the skill of those employed in its execution. The estimated cost of this portion of the building was four hundred and fifty thousand dollars without a portico, or five hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars with a portice. The aggregate amount of four hundred thousand dollars was appropriated by the Thirty-fourth Congress for this purpose. It is now estimated that to complete the building without the portico, to grade and enclose the grounds, and to lay off and improve the interior court, an additional appropriation of inty thousand dollars will be sufficient.

The constitution of the United States confers upon

bounty-land act of 1855 can be dispensed with at an early day.

During the year ending 30th of September last, 13,815 bounty-land warrants were issued, requiring 2,034,420 acres of land to eatisfy them. This, added to the quantity shown by my report of last year, makes the whole amount of public lands granted for military services up to September 30, 1858, 62,739,362 acres. Under the acts of 1847 and 1855 there are about 74,000 bounty-land claims pending in the office, originally suspended on account of informality, irregularity, or defective proof, they are accounted informality, irregularity, or defective proof, they are an object of the constitution of the Visited States of Virginia of so much as lies west acts of 1847 and 1855 there are about 74,000 bounty-land claims pending in the office, originally suspended on account of informality, irregularity, or defective proof, they are provided to the service are called up from time by time by the parties interested for re-examination, requiring a large amount of labor and patient investigation in the disposition of them.

The whole number of army pensioners under the various acts of Congress is 10,723, requiring for their payment the annual sum of \$902,700 29.

The whole number of navy pensioners is 892, and the aggregate amount of their annual payments is \$130, 501 10.

The constitution of the United States confers upon Congress exclusive legislative control over the District of Columbia, but does not allow its inhabitants any voice in its deliberations. This territory, in extent originally ten miles square, reduced to its present limits by a retrocession to the State of Virginia of so much as lies west of the Potential of the

# DEVARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, December 2, 1858. See: In the administration of the Interior Department, there is no subject of greater magnitude or of deeper interest to the people of the United States, than that of the public lands. Our system of disposing of them is the most just and equal, and, at the same time, the most conductive to their rapid settlement and reclamation from a wild and unproductive state, that has ever been devised by any government which has possessed extended.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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